

## **ABSTRACT**

Techniques are disclosed that enable country of origin labeling and verification. A source verification or "animal passport" procedure and system are disclosed, whereby each transfer of one  
5 or more animals is documented and recorded in a repository. An animal passport (i.e., certificate) is used for tracking transfers. A new passport is issued for every transfer, and a unique number (or other unique identifier) is assigned to each such passport. At the same time, each passport carries the  
10 passport number of the preceding transfer (or transfers), such that a sequence of passport numbers identifies all transfers occurring throughout the lifetime of the associated animal or animals. Animal passports may also be used to track transfers of animal products.